

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

MAY 26, 2009

Since the early 1970s, the State of California has been providing consumer-directed, in-home services. This program was developed to allow those in need of long-term care to obtain this treatment in a home setting, rather than in a nursing home or other institution. In California, this program has been very successful in giving people an alternative to nursing home care and allowing them to stay in their homes, while still receiving necessary daily care.

Every state that receives federal Medicaid dollars must provide nursing home services, but presently, community-based services are optional and not implemented consistently throughout the country. States must currently obtain a Medicaid waiver to implement such a community-based model, and these programs vary greatly from state to state. The Community Choice Act, which has been introduced as H.R. 1670 and S. 683 in Congress, would establish a nationwide standard of coverage under the Medicaid program for community-based attendant care for long-term care patients of all ages, and would make available enhanced federal matching for those states, such as California, that have already implemented this approach to care.

Having the money follow the person provides greater choice for the two million Americans presently residing in nursing homes because they require full-time attendant care. For states like California, the legislation recognizes the work that has been done already in the In-Home Supportive Services program and would make this program permanent.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Officer to send a five signature letter to the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation and any key Congressional Committee members in support of H.R. 1670 and S. 683, The Community Choice Act, to ensure that the money follows the person and allow disabled individuals to choose where and how they receive care.

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Molina _____

Ridley-Thomas _____

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